
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1282

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By House Committee on State Government (originally sponsored by Representatives Haigh, Tom, Upthegrove, Jarrett, Murray, Ericksen, Hunter, Shabro and Anderson)

READ FIRST TIME 03/05/03.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing citizen councilor groups; adding
2 new sections to chapter 43.09 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that some people may
5 have difficulty gaining access to the political process and that the
6 process can be improved by providing alternative mechanisms for
7 participation by the citizens of the state. The legislature intends to
8 establish a self-funding pilot process by which citizens can receive
9 information about public issues and provide input to their elected
10 officials.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Any person who lives or works in
12 Washington may volunteer to act as a citizen councilor by sending a
13 letter of application to the state auditor and paying a fee as set by
14 the state auditor to recover the costs of the citizen councilor
15 program.

16 (2) Citizen councilors shall act collectively as advisors for the
17 legislature. Conveners of citizen councilor groups shall be those

1 designated by the citizen councilor coordinator or deputy citizen
2 councilor coordinator under section 3 of this act from among citizen
3 councilors who volunteer to host a group.

4 (3) Citizen councilor groups shall:

5 (a) Gather information and study issues determined to be important
6 to the citizens of the state;

7 (b) Solicit input, comments, and suggestions from citizens and
8 groups throughout the state; and

9 (c) By December 1st of each calendar year, file a written report of
10 the groups' activities, including the subjects addressed by the group
11 and the conclusions and collective advice from the group, with the
12 citizen councilor coordinator.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The positions of citizen councilor
14 coordinator and deputy citizen councilor coordinator are created within
15 the office of the state auditor. The state auditor shall appoint the
16 citizen councilor coordinator and deputy citizen councilor coordinator
17 who shall serve at the pleasure of the state auditor and shall be
18 volunteers serving without compensation.

19 (2) The citizen councilor coordinator and deputy citizen councilor
20 coordinator shall:

21 (a) Promote to the citizens of the state the citizen councilor
22 program and its contribution to public planning processes;

23 (b) Actively encourage citizen councilor groups to form throughout
24 the state;

25 (c) Appoint conveners of citizen councilor groups;

26 (d) Oversee preparation, tabulation, summarization, and
27 dissemination of data and information;

28 (e) Solicit volunteers to assist in administering the program from
29 community service, educational, civic, business, and other
30 organizations;

31 (f) Distribute informational materials to citizen councilors;

32 (g) Maintain data and documents generated by citizen councilor
33 groups in the state auditor's office; and

34 (h) By January 1st of each year, forward the written reports
35 submitted by the citizen councilor groups under section 2 of this act
36 to the legislature.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 2 and 3 of this act are each added
2 to chapter 43.09 RCW.

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